



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

John L. Anderson
President

June 4, 2020

Dear Colleague,

I hope you and those you hold dear are safe and well during this stressful time.

Because you have been a generous and committed supporter of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), I'm writing to you with an update on our work—and a request for your help.

Right now, policymakers and the public are looking to science, engineering, and health professionals for solutions to the COVID-19 crisis. **Our top priority is to provide leadership in a world of accelerating change and unanticipated challenges.**

Last month the NAE launched an Engineering Call to Action on COVID-19: A Cross-Generational Crowdsourcing Initiative combining the energy and ideas of young professionals and senior engineers. This initiative is actively engaging Grand Challenges Scholars Program students and alumni, Frontiers of Engineering (FOE) alumni, and NAE members to collectively brainstorm engineering solutions to address direct and indirect impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. I am very pleased to report the engagement of 630 teams in this path-breaking project.

Private support was critical to launching this timely initiative, which was made possible in part thanks to the Charles M. Vest President's Opportunity Fund. I am grateful to the members and friends who donated to this fund as part of the NAE's 50th Anniversary Campaign (2011–2014). That support is directly enabling the NAE to harness the knowledge, skills, and innovative mindset of engineers to combat the pandemic and its devastating effects.

Your support also enables the seamless continuity of our ongoing programs and the successful launch of new projects. The NAE's talented and dedicated staff, all working from home, are helping *EngineerGirl* Ambassadors to finish projects digitally, pitching ideas, convening experts, and hosting the inaugural Forum on Complex, Unifiable Systems (FOCUS)—the first-ever completely virtual NAE convocation, with a record-breaking 430 participants!

Especially in times of crisis, the nation needs a strong, clear voice to offer guidance based on facts and without agenda. The NAE and the National Academies stand ready to provide that guidance. Your support is critical. **Please join me in supporting the NAE by making a gift to the NAE Independent Fund today.**

Thank you very much.

June 4, 2020
Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

John L. Anderson

PS Information about the NAE's Engineering Call to Action on COVID-19: A GCSP-FOE-NAE Cross-Generational Crowdsourcing Initiative is available at www.nae.edu/covid19. And you can learn more about the National Academies' response to the pandemic, including the work of the new Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats, at our [central hub](#).